



THE  
**CHRISTIAN**  
IN TODAY'S  
**SOCIETY**

SALT AND LIGHT IN AMERICA : RACE









MY dad was  
a good father  
JP Thomas  
1980

REGINALD  
THOMAS  
Life MATTERS

A city street scene at dusk or dawn, featuring a multi-story building with a grid of windows, palm trees, and a street with traffic. A semi-transparent dark blue overlay covers the center of the image, containing white text. In the bottom left corner, there is a circular logo with a white background and a blue border, containing the text 'SALT & LIGHT IN RACE RELATIONS' and a small cross icon.

In this election cycle, Christians should not be invisible. And they should not be silent.


SALT & LIGHT  
IN  
RACE  
RELATIONS

A city street scene at dusk, featuring a semi-transparent text box in the upper center. The background shows a busy intersection with palm trees, modern buildings, and a bus. The lighting is a mix of warm sunset colors and cool blue twilight tones. The text box contains the question: "When it comes to race in the US, what does salt and light look like?"

When it comes to race in the US,  
what does salt and light look like?

A circular logo in the bottom left corner with a white-to-purple gradient. It contains the text "SALT & LIGHT IN RACE RELATIONS" and a small icon of a salt shaker.


SALT & LIGHT  
IN  
RACE  
RELATIONS

A city street scene at dusk or dawn, featuring a semi-transparent text overlay. The background shows a busy urban intersection with palm trees, modern buildings, and traffic. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

When it comes to race in the US,  
what does salt and light look like?

not just policy but people

SALT & LIGHT  
IN  
RACE  
RELATIONS

A city street scene at dusk or dawn, with a semi-transparent text overlay. The background shows a multi-story building with a grid of windows, palm trees, and a street with traffic lights. The text is white and centered on a dark, semi-transparent rectangular background.

When it comes to race in the US,  
what does salt and light look like?

Not avoiding issues, nor belittling people,  
but engaging in the conversations of society as people of salt and light,  
with values of salt and light

SALT & LIGHT  
IN  
RACE  
RELATIONS



What does the Bible  
say about race?

Race in American  
history

Thoughts about how  
our Christian faith  
can inform  
discussions about  
race in the Public  
Square

Some practical steps  
for us

SALT & LIGHT  
IN  
RACE  
RELATIONS

# THE BIBLE ON RACE AND ETHNICITY

Tower of Babel  
Genesis 11

Ethnic Diversity  
and division is a  
result of human  
sin and pride

Old Testament

Israel is called to  
be a light to other  
people

Pentecost  
Acts 2

When the "Festival  
of First Fruits"  
happens, God calls  
His people to  
Himself in their own  
tongues

Jesus &  
Samaritans

Jesus' words &  
deeds regarding  
Samaritans are a  
model for how we  
are to see people  
as God does,  
beneath human  
skin and labels

Paul

2 Cor 5; Gal 3:26-28

We are given the  
ministry and  
message of  
reconciliation.

Gal 3 is a public  
confession of the  
Christians' unique  
identity as a  
reconciling people

SALT & LIGHT  
IN  
RACE  
RELATIONS

# RACE & ETHNICITY IN THE US HAVE BEEN COMPLICATED

DECLARATION OF  
INDEPENDENCE

A revolutionary  
idea based on the  
theological  
consequence of  
each person  
being made in  
God's image

NATIVE AMERICANS

These ideals  
seemingly did not  
apply to them


AFRICAN-  
AMERICAN SLAVES

These ideals have  
been bloodily  
fought for, in the  
Civil War and Civil  
Rights Movements,  
both led by the  
church

WOMEN

The right to vote  
was not granted to  
women until 1919

SALT & LIGHT  
IN  
RACE  
RELATIONS



**KAISER WILSON**

*HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN  
YOUR SYMPATHY WITH  
THE POOR GERMANS  
BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT  
SELF-GOVERNED?*

*20,000,000  
AMERICAN WOMEN ARE NOT  
SELF-GOVERNED.*

*TAKE THE BEAM  
OUT OF YOUR OWN EYE.*

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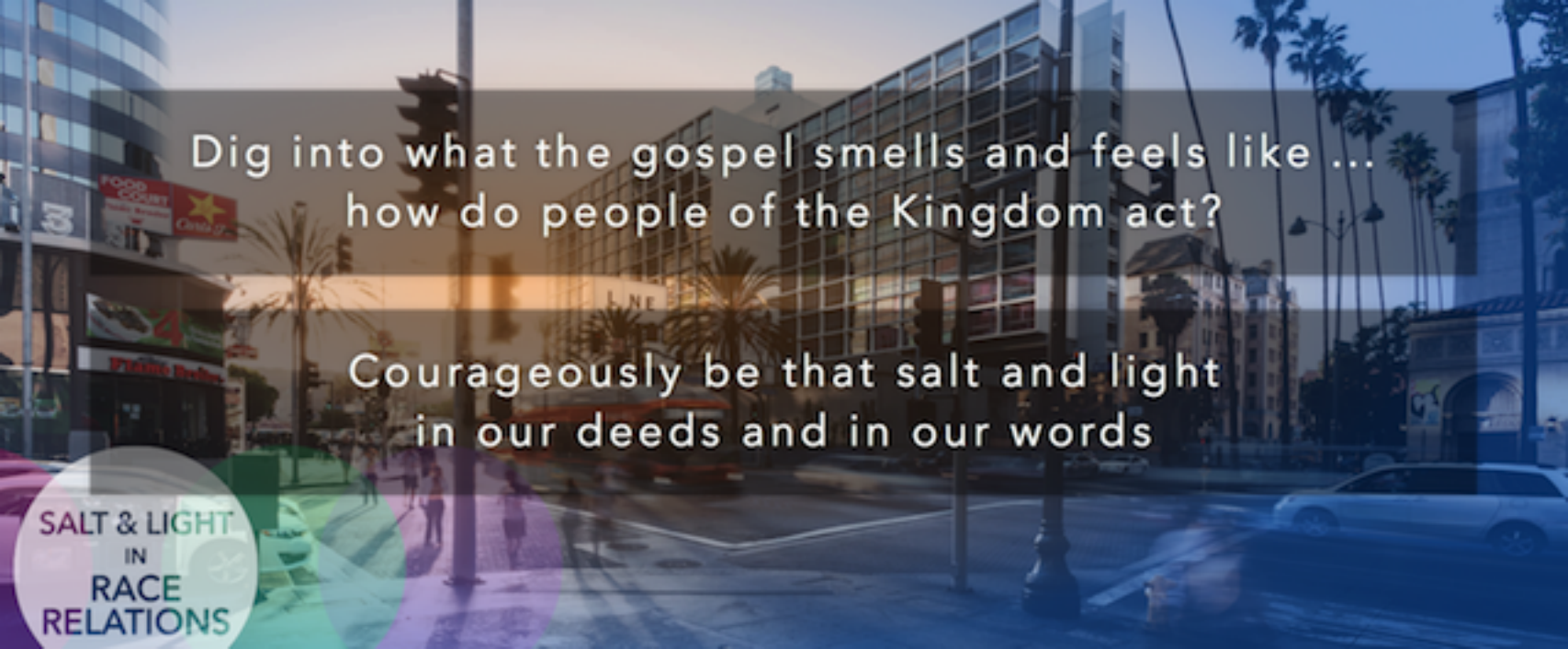
WOMEN

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CHINESE

The Chinese  
Exclusion Act of  
1882 are a symbol  
of America's on-  
and-off relationship  
with immigrants

SALT & LIGHT  
IN  
RACE  
RELATIONS

A city street scene at dusk or dawn, featuring modern buildings, palm trees, and a semi-transparent text overlay. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking down a street. On the left, there are commercial buildings with signs for 'FOOD COURT' and 'Flame Broiler'. In the center, a large building with a grid of windows is visible. On the right, there are more buildings and palm trees. The sky is a mix of orange and blue. The text is white and centered over the image.

Dig into what the gospel smells and feels like ...  
how do people of the Kingdom act?

Courageously be that salt and light  
in our deeds and in our words

SALT & LIGHT  
IN  
RACE  
RELATIONS

# THOUGHTS on RACE RELATIONS in the US PUBLIC SQUARE

## IMMIGRATION

Let's not revert to the sort of fear and rhetoric about the effect of immigrants in the US

## PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Choose candidates that treat people with the respect and dignity that each child of God deserves

## BLACK LIVES MATTERS

Affirm the essential truth of this phrase without being co-opted by the politics and tone of its founders and movement

## POLICE

Treat policemen and women with the respect and dignity they deserve as children of God, and listen to their stories. Pray for those in authority.

## PROTEST, BUT BE PRACTICAL

Symbolic gestures are helpful to start discussions, but must lead to reform

SALT & LIGHT  
IN  
RACE  
RELATIONS

# PRACTICALS

Track your  
"we" and  
"they"

Are you  
depersonalizing  
others?

Where is your  
heart  
hardened?

Track your own  
fears

Explore your  
own fears and  
wounds

Begin  
with your  
own story

Own up to  
your own  
personal biases

What are you  
experiencing?

Tell me your  
story

Have  
conversations

Treat others as  
you want to be  
treated